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687CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE:

INFO. Prior to 20 Feb. '47

SUBJECT Control of the Publishing Industry in the
Russian Zone

DIST. 14 MAY 1947

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PAGES 2

ORIGIN

25X1X SUPPLEMENT

1. Control of Paper Supplies: In Leipzig the Russians have set up "Paper Production Center" by forcing a partnership between two local firms, F.A. Woelbling and Ferdinand Flinsch. Paper production and distribution in the Russian Zone is directly under the control of the Military Publications Press (Militärverlag) of the Russian Government Printing Office in Moscow.
2. Russian Expropriations: The following presses have been taken over by the Russians:
 - a. The Gerold Press in Pöasneck. This press is now called the Karl Marx Press and has acquired a quantity of the best machinery from other Thuringian presses and bookbinding establishments.
 - b. Kirstein & Wendler of Leipzig has been dismantled.
 - c. Günther of Leipzig has been dismantled.
 - d. The Fikentscher Bookbinding Company of Leipzig has been dismantled.
 - e. Vobach & Co., Leipzig, is scheduled for dismantlement.
 - f. Köhler & Volkmar in Leipzig is packing 300,000 volumes a day for shipment to Russia. An estimated 60,000,000 books and pamphlets have been shipped since August 1946. Fifteen hundred men are employed to pack and crate printing equipment and books at this firm.

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

Much of the publishing and press equipment seized in Leipzig has been labelled "booty" or "trophies" and stored in the Flinsch & Co. warehouse.

3. Russian Personalities Connected with Control: Russian officers who have supervised paper distribution include Capt. Pittler, 1st Lt. Elburin, and Capt. Orlowski. In addition a Prof. Kusmin has made a visit from Russia in connection with control of paper supplies.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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4. A Major Löwenstein and a female Major Bauer are in charge of an FDJ press called "Neues Leben".
5. Books Printed for Russian Consumption: The Karl Marx Press at Pössneck will print 1,000,000 English language textbooks for Russians, plus 1,500,000 Russian-English dictionaries.
6. In Halle the Wilhelm Knapp publishing house has received an order for 150,000 textbooks in Chinese. The firm expects to be dismantled after the order has been completed.
7. Plates for books published at Köhler & Volkmar, Leipzig, arrived from Moscow. They are usually for Ikranian school texts and songbooks. Among specific works published are a "History of Communism" and the "Biography of Lenin".

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